

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): Sample dispenser, for the application of liquid samples with a sample volume of less than 1 μ l on to a sample absorbing area, with a sample dispenser body having at its end a recess bounded by a continuous edge, such that, when the recess is dipped into a sample reservoir, a droplet of liquid sample of predetermined size adheres to the recess and by placing the recess on the sample absorbing area is completely dispensed. ~~Sample dispenser according to claim 14,~~ wherein the recess has a shape selected from the group consisting of a hollow cone and a segmented hollow sphere.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (original): Sample dispenser according to claim 14, wherein the hollow cone shaped recess is made by drilling.

Claim 17 (currently amended): Sample dispenser according to ~~claim 14~~ 14, wherein the ~~sample pick-up surface~~ recess is polished.

Claim 18 (currently amended): Sample dispenser according to claim ~~15~~ 16, wherein the ~~sample pick-up surface~~ recess is polished.

Claim 19 (currently amended): Sample dispenser according to ~~claims~~ claim 14 14, wherein the ~~sample pick-up surface~~ recess is represented by a free end face of the sample dispenser body in the form of an elongated body.

Claim 20 (currently amended): Sample dispenser according to claim 18, wherein the ~~sample pick-up surface~~ recess is represented by a free end face of the sample dispenser body in the form of an elongated body.

Claim 21 (currently amended): Sample dispenser according to claim 14, wherein the sample dispenser body has as its tip a cylinder section with a diameter of from about 1 mm to about 2 mm.

Claim 22 (currently amended): Sample dispenser according to claim 14, wherein the sample dispenser body has as its tip a cylinder section having a diameter of from about 1.2 mm to about 1.7 mm.

Claim 23 (previously presented): Sample dispenser according to claim 20, wherein the sample dispenser body has as its tip a cylinder section with a diameter of from about 1 mm to about 2 mm.

Claim 24 (previously presented): Sample dispenser according to claim 20, wherein the sample dispenser body has as its tip a cylinder section having a diameter of from about 1.2 mm to about 1.7 mm.

Claim 25 (currently amended): Sample dispenser according to claim 21, wherein the cylinder section is provided with two parallel flattened walls, preferably spaced from about 0.8 mm to about 1.2 mm apart.

Claim 26 (currently amended): Sample dispenser according to claim 23, wherein the cylinder section is provided with two parallel flattened walls, preferably spaced from about 0.8 mm to about 1.2 mm apart.

Claim 27 (canceled)